

Board of Education Minutes  
December 12, 2012

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, December 12, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler Gymnasium Band Room. Present were Mr. Testa, Mr. McCord, Mr. Mendolia, Mr. Karpinski, Dr. Robert, Mr. Mathwich, and Mrs. Dame. Also present were Mr. Nero, Mr. McCarthy, Mrs. Costa, Mrs. Wilkison, Mr. Sandford, and Mr. Apicelli. Chairman Testa called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance – Mr. Nero led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Public Comment on Agenda Items – None.
4. Community Relations – Articles were put at the Board Members’ places. Mr. Nero thanked the PTO and the ICONS group. He elaborated.
5. Presentations - Student Recognition for CAPT Achievement – Mr. Nero read a letter from Commissioner Pryor recognizing Erick Breckenridge, Katrina Fedors, and Hanna Vetrovec for achieving the status of Advanced Level on the CAPT. Mr. Nero thanked the students for their hard work and commended the work of supportive teachers and families.
6. Administrators Reports – Mrs. Wilkison told of happenings at the elementary school including report cards being sent home Wednesday with parent/teacher conferences on Thursday and Friday, the new report card version, students working with high school and middle school students to make cards for the troops in Afghanistan, the winter concerts, the PTO holiday sale, and the drama club presentation being held next week thanks to a grant from Macy’s. (We are the only district in the state to get this grant from Macy’s.) There were comments and questions were asked. Mr. Sandford told of happenings at the middle/high school including the Bank on Your Future Program sponsored by Chelsea Groton Bank that was held at Wheeler on the 11<sup>th</sup> with a number of local businesses taking part, the NEASC survey is complete with the survey results available in about a month, and the new ice machine that will be installed thanks to funding from the athletic boosters.
7. Administrative - a. Approval of Minutes- November 14, 2012 – On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Mendolia, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the November 14, 2012 meeting.  
  
November 28, 2012 – Dr. Robert made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Dame to accept the minutes of the November 28, 2012 meeting and public hearing. Questions were asked and answered. The motion passed unanimously as amended.
  - b. Correspondence – None.
  - c. Personnel – None.

8. Reports - a. Superintendent – Mr. Nero spoke of Mrs. Starr and her family’s loss. Mr. Nero attended the holiday programs and thanked Carolyn Bennett, Mike Hassell and Mike Noonan. He went to EASTCONN for a TEAM training session and spoke of the session and said the first hour was on the new teacher evaluation plan. He elaborated.

b. BOE Chairperson – Mr. Testa said that he, Mr. Nero and Mr. McCarthy attended the Board of Finance meeting to speak on the RISSA account. He elaborated on what happened at the meeting. They went prepared with the plan and explanation but it was a disappointing meeting. He spoke of the business manager item being on their agenda without us having any knowledge of it. He had further comment and explanation. Mr. Nero had comment. There was discussion. Mr. Testa had further comment. Board Members had further comments and questions. Mr. Testa thanked the Board members for their actions at the hearing. He elaborated. Board Members had comment. Mr. Testa said we succeed together. He had further comment.

c. Committee Chairs – Financials will be acted upon further in the agenda. There was comment.

d. PSPBC Liaison – None.

9. Financial - a. November 2012 Financial Statements – On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Mendolia, the Board voted unanimously to accept the financial statements for November 2012.

b. Transfer Request – On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mr. Mendolia, the Board voted unanimously to approve the transfer requests of December 5, 2012.

10. Old Business – a. Teacher Evaluation – Mr. Nero told the Board that the Teacher Evaluation Committee met today and he elaborated. He told the Board he had helped develop a document in his former district and elaborated on this document and its pitfalls. He explained the SEED document is being piloted in about 10 districts and they are having issues. He is going to inform the State that North Stonington will be developing its own model. He elaborated and had further comment.

b. NEASC Early-Release Days – Mr. Sandford explained what some of the Board’s concerns were regarding the early release days. He elaborated and had explanation as to what was needed. Mr. Nero had comment. Mrs. Wilkison also had comment on Common Core Standards. There was further comment. Questions were asked and answered. Dr. Robert made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Mendolia to approve the requested early release days. Questions were asked and answered. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was suspended and the Board went into a work session at 8:11 p.m.

## Policies and Regulations for Review

1. 5141.27 – First Aid/Emergency Medical Care (Policy and Regulation) - There was comment made and a suggestion made to have a replacement plan for the AED's.

2. 5141.7 – Student Sports – Concussion and Head Injuries (Policy and Regulation) – There was comment and suggestions made. Questions were asked and answered.

The remainder of the policies will be discussed at the next Board meeting. They are: 2400 – Evaluation of Administrators and Administration, 4111 – Recruitment and Selection, 4112.2 – Certification, 4115 – Evaluation (and Support Program), 4116 – Awarding of Tenure, 4117.4 – Non-Renewal/Suspension (Policy and Regulation), 4131 – Staff Development (Existing policy but a major change), 5125 – Student Records; Confidentiality (Policy and Regulation – FERPA), 5141 – Student Health Services, 5141.21 – Administering Medication, 5141.25 – Students with Special Health Care Needs, 5145.14 – On-Campus Recruitment, 6142.61 – Physical Activity, and 6159 – Individualized Education Program/Special Education Program.

Mr. Nero spoke of the resolution made at the November 28<sup>th</sup> hearing and said we have to start some dialogue. He elaborated. He commented on starting with what the educational plan was with the Ad Hoc Committee. He elaborated. Board members had comment. There was discussion. Two Board workshops will be scheduled—one with the Ad Hoc Committee for their findings and one for the Superintendent's vision. The second week in January for the meeting with the Ad Hoc Committee was discussed. There was further discussion. Mr. Nero had comment.

The Board came back in session at 9:03 p.m.

11. New Business – a. Policy and Regulation 5141.27 – First Aid/Emergency Medical Care – On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to accept new policy and regulation 5141.27.

b. Policy and Regulation 5141.7 – Student Sports – Concussion and Head Injuries – On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Karpinski, the Board voted unanimously to accept new policy and regulation 5141.7 with the changes discussed.

c. Discussion of Board Resolution of November 28, 2012 – Dr. Robert clarified that a workshop would be scheduled with the Board of Education and the Ad Hoc Committee. He clarified that it would be a workshop and not a presentation.

d. Program Coordinators – Mr. Nero suggested the Board read the information. He explained there are many things coming along and he elaborated.

e. Discussion of Business Manager Position – Mr. Nero said we have to make a decision about whether to consolidate with the Town and he elaborated. He said he didn't think people realize what is involved in this position. There was discussion. There was further comment.

12. Calendar – a. Future Meeting Dates – The next regular meeting is January 9<sup>th</sup>. A workshop will try to be set up with the Ad Hoc Committee on Wednesday the 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. January 23<sup>rd</sup> is another regularly scheduled meeting.

b. Committee Action List – None.

13. Public Comment – None.

On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. McCord, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to  
The Board of Education